



FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

12055 Government Center Parkway, Suite 927
Fairfax, VA 22035-1118



For Immediate Release

Judy Pedersen, PIO

E-mail: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov

Press Inquiries: 703-324-8662

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Historic Cider Press Rededicated as Last Orchard Closes

On Saturday, September 30, the Fairfax County Park Authority will dedicate a new cider press building, housing a 1928, commercial-size, Mount Gilead Cider Press, and an accompanying interpretive exhibit at Frying Pan Farm Park in Herndon. The site will officially open to the public and this historic treasure can once again be enjoyed by citizens who savored its cider for many years. Ceremonies are slated for 2:30 p.m. and will be followed by light refreshments.

The cider press was saved through the cooperative work and funding of the Friends of Frying Pan Farm Park and the Fairfax County Park Authority. This represents a unique opportunity to interpret a sector of the county's agricultural history that just this year came to an end. Fairfax County orchard farming, including apple growing, peaked in the 1920's. The county's last orchard closed this summer.

Fairfax County had a fruitful past in the most literal sense, and apples were once the core of a Fairfax County industry. These themes are explored in a ten panel exhibit outlining the county's apple growing past, the history of the press, and the production process for apple cider. Visitors will have the chance to learn in some detail, how the farmers and the machine worked together to change over 18 tons of apples into 3,000 gallons of cider a week.

The building and exhibit will be open daily. The cider press has been restored to operational condition and will run during special events at Frying Pan Farm Park. For more information call 703-437-9101. Frying Pan Farm Park is located at 2709 West Ox Road in Herndon. Frying Pan Farm Park is home to Kidwell Farm, a *working model farm* typical of farms found in Fairfax County in the early 20th-century.

Directions: Frying Pan Farm Park may be reached by taking Beltway Exit 49 which is Route 66 west to the Route 50 west exit. Follow Route 50 west to a right on the Fairfax County Parkway until it meets West Ox Road. Turn left on West Ox Road and follow to the park entrance on the right.

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703-324-8700 • TTY: 703-803-3354 • ONLINE: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks • E-MAIL: parkmail@fairfaxcounty.gov



Fairfax County is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination in all county programs, services and activities and will provide reasonable accommodations upon request. To request special accommodations, call 703-324-8563 or TTY 703-803-3354. Please allow ten working days in advance of events in order to make the necessary arrangements.